CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving invoice adjustment information in an application-specific data object format from each of a plurality of applications; and

translating the invoice adjustment information into a common invoice adjustment data object format.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

inter-exchanging invoice adjustment information in the common invoice adjustment data object format between two or more of the plurality of applications.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:

translating invoice adjustment information in the common invoice adjustment data object to an application-specific data object format for use by a respective application.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the precedent operations of:

determining essential data elements of a common invoice adjustment data object format; and

creating a common invoice adjustment data object format including at least the essential data elements.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the essential data elements include an identification data element, invoice adjustment base data element, a billing data element, a status data element, and a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes at least one complex data element.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related employee data element, a related invoice data element, and a related comments data element.

10. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, the data structure using an extensible markup language format, the data structure comprising:

an identification data element;

invoice adjustment base data element;

a billing data element;

a status data element; and

a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element.

11. The machine-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the data structure further comprises:

at least one complex data element.

12. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the data structure further comprises: one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related employee data element, a related invoice data element, and a related comments data element.

13. A machine-readable medium that provides executable instructions, which, when executed by a computing system, cause the computing system to perform a method comprising:

receiving invoice adjustment information in an application-specific data object format from each of a plurality of applications; and

translating the invoice adjustment information into a common invoice adjustment data object format.

14. The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the method further comprises:

inter-exchanging invoice adjustment information in the common invoice adjustment data object format between two or more of the plurality of applications.

15. The machine-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the method further comprises:

translating invoice adjustment information in the common invoice adjustment data object to an application-specific data object format for use by a respective application.

16. The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

17. The machine-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the method further comprises the precedent operations of:

determining essential data elements of a common invoice adjustment data object format; and

creating a common invoice adjustment data object format including at least the essential data elements.

18. The machine-readable medium of claim 17 wherein the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.

19. The machine-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the essential data elements include an identification data element, invoice adjustment base data element, a billing data element, a status data element, and a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element.

20. The machine-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes at least one complex data element.

21. The machine-readable medium of claim 20 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related employee data element, a related invoice data element, and a related comments data element.

22. A system comprising:

a plurality of processing systems, each processing system storing at least one application that processes invoice adjustment information, the invoice adjustment information having an application-specific data object format; and

an integration server, coupled via a network, to each of the plurality of processing systems, the integration server translating invoice adjustment information from an application specific data object format to a common invoice adjustment data object format.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein invoice adjustment information in the common invoice adjustment data object format is inter-exchanged between two or more processing systems.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes a set of essential data elements, the set of essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the set of essential data elements includes an identification data element, invoice adjustment base data element, a billing data element, a status data element, and a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element.

27. The system of claim 26 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes at least one complex data element.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related employee data element, a related invoice data element, and a related comments data element.